

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05225 261524Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
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R 261410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9063
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, BBSR, SA
SUBJECT: JIDDA PORT AND TRAFFIC SITREP

REF: JIDDA 4955

1. SHIPPING AGENT CONTACTS HAVE INFORMED PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT PRESIDENT OF SAUDI PORTS AUTHORITY, FAYZ BADR, SUMMONED ALL SHIPPING AGENTS TO MEETING JULY 24, 1977 AND WARNED THEM THAT IF ANY OF THEIR SHIPS RADIOED THE PORT STATING THAT THEY WERE ENTERING OUTER HARBOR ROADSTEAD, PORT AUTHORITY WOULD FINE THE SHIPPING COMPANY SR 200,000. (APPROXIMATELY \$56,000.) HE ALSO STATED THAT NO SHIPS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER PORT UNTIL AUGUST 6, 1977 AND THEN ONLY WITH PERMISSION.

2. PORT TRAFFIC, AS REPORTED EARLIER, IS BUILDING UP AND
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05225 261524Z

ESTIMATED WAIT IS NOW 5 TO 6 DAYS. BADR DESIRES, ACCORD-
ING TO LOCAL OBSERVERS, FOREIGN AND SAUDI, TO MAINTAIN
THE ILLUSION THAT JIDDA'S PORT IS FREE OF ALL PROBLEMS.
IT IS NOTED THAT HE IS ONLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.
THERE ARE REPORTEDLY OVER 50 VESSELS IN THE RED SEA OR AT
PORTS SUCH AS SUEZ WAITING TO MAKE PORT IN JIDDA.

3. LYKES LINES REPRESENTATIVE BASED IN GENOA CAME TO JIDDA TO PLEAD EXCEPTION FOR SPECIALLY CHARTERED SHIP CARRYING MILITARY VEHICLES. BADR GAVE HIM BRUSH OFF SAYING HE SHOULD NOT HAVE COME AND ASKED HIM TO LEAVE HIS OFFICE. AFTER INTERCESSION BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, SHIPS, NOW AT SUEZ, WILL BE GIVEN EXCEPTION AND ALLOWED IN ON AUGUST 3. LYKES REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT IN FUTURE IF PROBLEM IS REPEATED THE COMPANY WOULD OFF-LOAD CARGO IN ANOTHER PORT, AS SUCH ACTION IS ALLOWED BY INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONFERENCES. IF SITUATION CONTINUES, GOODS DESTINED FOR JIDDA COULD END UP OFF-LOADED AT AQABA, SUEZ, PORT SUDAN OR OTHER WAY STOPS.

4. STATE AND COMMERCE MAY ADVISE U.S. FIRMS ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS AT THEIR DISCRETION.

5. THERE ARE NOW 60 SHIPS IN JIDDA HARBOR, AT BERTH AND IN HARBOR ROADSTEAD. THREE BERTHS AT JIDDA NOW UNUSABLE DUE TO KEELING OVER OF RO-RO SHIP WHICH NEEDS TWO OTHER BERTHS FOR REFLOATING. SHIP WAS MADE TOP-HEAVY BY ERRONEOUS OFF-LOADING AND REFUELING AT SAME TIME. DURING TILT WATER INFUSION CAUSED IT TO KEEL OVER. UPCOMING RAMADAN SEASON BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 15 COULD COMPOUND PROBLEMS.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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